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DES NEWSLETTER

Volume 27

May 1995

Number 2

John E. Prendergast
Adjutant General



Jim Greene
Administrator

Marc Racicot
Governor

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

The Governor's Conference was a tremendous success. We were fortunate to have Governor Marc Racicot and James Lee Witt speak with emphasis on the importance of emergency management in general and being prepared through mitigation, training and exercising. To maintain or exceed the quality of the conference next year will be a major challenge. We eagerly look forward to this challenge, and hope all of you will actively participate.

Recent flooding in Lima, south of Dillon, had a major impact upon residents and businesses of this town of 265 citizens. The response by the town, Beaverhead County, Red Cross, surrounding ranches and State agencies was fast and effective. Everyone involved should feel good about what was accomplished considering the serious nature of the situation. It was obvious Beaverhead County was prepared and the local DES coordinator, Larry Laknar, had his ducks in a row (and lots of straw bales in a row). This was an excellent example of what a quality emergency management program can accomplish. Hats off to everyone who assisted, for a job well done.

Speculation about the potential of the upcoming fire season abounds. First however, there is still flooding potential for some areas of the State. We encourage all of you to review your responsibilities for flooding and wildfire, and network with your cooperators. Now is the time to dust off your plans and prepare your community.

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Ed Gierke as the new District II Representative for North Central Montana.

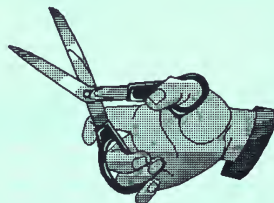
Jim Greene
Administrator



2nd Quarter Duty Officer Compendium

During the second quarter of FFY-95, DES Duty Officers responded to a variety of incidents. The reports include:

Bomb Threats	1
Earthquakes	1
Exercises	3
Fire	3
Flooding	4
Hazmat	31
Ice Jams	0
Information Calls	3
Severe Weather	1
Misc	6



FROM THE TRAINING BUREAU CHIEF Chris Christensen

Training Needs Assessment

The 1996 Annual Training Needs Assessment Survey will be coming to you through your District Representative. Please take the time to fill this survey out with your District Representative. Your response, along with those of the other DES Coordinators will be used in the formulation of next year's training program.

FROM THE EX-ETO Ed Gierke

I have had the pleasure of participating in the following exercises during the first three months of 1995.

Park/Meagher County
 Joint Functional Exercise
 Teton County ICS Based
 Functional Exercise
 Northern Cheyenne
 Tabletop Exercise
 Liberty County
 Functional Exercise
 State DES
 EOC Tabletop

Future exercises that are presently in the planning stages are:

Custer County Exercise
 Daniels County Exercise

I have received several exercise reporting forms (FEMA 95-44) for recent completed exercises in the following jurisdictions:

Carbon County
 Carter County
 Dear Lodge County
 Fergus County
 Flathead County
 Gallatin County
 Lewis & Clark County
 Liberty County
 McCone County

We are presently waiting for certification on several **Actual Occurrence Exercises** submitted over the past few months for approval to Region III. Please be patient, it is a process of logistics and time.

County Coordinators:

If you wish assistance with future exercise planning and training please contact me at your convenience so we can get your jurisdiction on the travel calendar.

Many new and innovative exercises are being developed across the state. Share your training and experiences with your neighbors. Invite an adjacent jurisdiction to observe and even participated in your next exercise.



FROM THE EARTHQUAKE PROGRAM MANAGER Fred Naeher

In January and February, 1995 the Training Bureau conducted a very successful Mass Fatalities Incident Response Course in Butte and Missoula. Grady Bray, Tom Shepardson and Ron Hurt were the nationally recognized FEMA instructors. 180 participants from across the state felt that it was a very worthwhile two days. Thanks to all who helped make it a successful program!

Another successful training program was held in Polson, February 1995. 38 teachers and administrators were there for a 1 day program on earthquake safety and preparedness. Mike Stickney, seismologist from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Butte was the guest speaker. Thanks to Dick Giffin and the Polson School District for promoting and sponsoring the program.

Eight Montana representatives attended the School Earthquake Safety Train the Trainer Course at EMI this past month. They were: Robert Aumaugher, Superintendent, Evergreen Public Schools, Flathead County; Ralph Christofferson, Administrator, Kila Public Schools, Flathead County; Larry Rasmussen, Dean, Flathead Valley Community College, Flathead

County; Joel King, Deputy Fire Marshall, Lewis and Clark County; Bernard Rosling, Superintendent, Somers Public Schools, Flathead County; Jeff Shada, Director of Safety and Risk Management, Montana State University, Gallatin County; Ken Willett, Campus Security Director, University of Montana, Missoula County; Fred Naeher, DES, Helena.

Everyone agreed that the program was very worthwhile and that they had a lot of work to do in their school districts. Mitigation projects are already under way by the participants. They have also agreed to conduct programs in their community to promote earthquake awareness.

If you know of someone in your education community who might be interested in becoming an earthquake train the trainer, please ask them to submit an application through your office. Seats are still available at EMI for all the earthquake programs coming up this summer. So far we have 4 teachers who applied for the Earthquake grades K-6 TTT, 4 teachers for Earthquake grades 7-12 TTT and 15 administrators for the School Earthquake Safety program. Thanks again for your help.

The Earthquake Working Group will be meeting sometime in May, 1995. Items

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already on the agenda will be House Bill 300, earthquake mitigation strategy, training needs assessment for FY 96, volunteer organizations (civil engineers, Ameri-corps, etc.), future legislation, working group functions and organization. If there are other issues to be addressed, please call to get it on the agenda.

FROM THE PLANNING BUREAU CHIEF: Dan McGowan

C.I.S.D. to C.I.S.M.

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing has been renamed nationally to Critical Incident Stress Management. The entire arena for dealing with critical incident stress deals with much more than just a debriefing as C.I.S.D. would have you believe.

The state project for C.I.S.M. is progressing rather rapidly. A task force has been formed to handle the educational issues identified by the state-wide committee. To date, the educational task force has identified several pertinent issues and begun developing a brochure and obtaining post-certification for a course at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.

The statewide steering committee will be refocusing their direction at the next meeting and reprimarizing the

issues. The project has really blossomed and may possibly be a candidate for a 501-C-3 non-profit association.

FROM DISTRICT #1

Representative Bill Thomas:

Lake County coordinator, Dick Giffin, recently received a plaque and certificate of appreciation from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for assisting during the wildfires. the letter of appreciation reads in part: "Mr. Giffin demonstrated and applied a high degree of knowledge, and performed his duties in an energetic and professional manner. He was a valuable asset to the sheriff's department and his tireless efforts of cooperation and assistance enhanced our mission of evacuation, security and law enforcement significantly."

FROM PAUL SPENGLER DES Association President:

Prez sez:

On behalf of the DES Association, I would like to thank Jim Greene and his staff for producing the best Governor's Conference in memory. This is not only my opinion, but it is also the evaluation given by the overwhelming majority of commissioners and coordinators that attended the conference.

Special thanks are also in order to Incident Commander George Christensen and his capable DES staff for their extraordinary efforts in putting on this huge conference. They started early and stayed late. Their hard work was evident in the results.

I am already looking forward to next year's conference, which provides us with a powerful forum for the continuing education of our chief elected officials as we build the foundation for a sound emergency management program for the 21st century.

FROM:

Jim Anderson

&

Lynn Valtinson

WEATHER STATION ISSUES

Late winter and spring bring the flood season to Montana. We have already had several flood events in southwestern Montana this year, with significant damage to the town of Lima.

The National Weather Service is responsible for all flood warnings, watches and statements within Montana. Many people do not realize that we have that responsibility so may not think about us when flooding occurs. Our name is misleading. It would be more appropriate to call us the "National Weather and Hydrologic Service".

All too often, flooding will occur on small streams where we do not have stream gauges, or it may be localized to a small area where our rather sparse gauging system fails to register it. It may occur in lowlands simply due to water pooling from snow melt. In those cases, we may not be aware of the flooding when it occurs. We may even be able to anticipate that flooding is likely, but are not able to predict where.

So, we are asking you for your help. If you have flooding in your area, day or night, please call the National Weather Service in Great Falls. You may use our toll free number for this purpose (800-932-5994) but we ask that you use it only to relay weather or flood reports. Please do not release this number to the general public.

On April 26 of this year, weather service offices in Havre and Helena will no longer have responsibility for short-fused warnings such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. This change is the result of the National Weather Service modernization and restructuring and of the new doppler radars now in place at Great Falls and Missoula. Warnings for counties which were formally served by these offices will now be handled by either Great Falls or Missoula. These transfers are as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>Current Weather Office</u>	<u>After April 26, 1995</u>
Beaverhead	Helena	Missoula
Blaine	Havre	Great Falls
Broadwater	Helena	Great Falls
Deer Lodge	Helena	Missoula
Gallatin	Helena	Great Falls
Hill	Havre	Great Falls
Jefferson	Helena	Great Falls
Lewis and Clark	Helena	Great Falls
Liberty	Havre	Great Falls
Meagher	Helena	Great Falls
Madison	Helena	Great Falls
Powell	Helena	Missoula
Silver Bow	Helena	Missoula

As always, please continue to keep us informed of any severe weather in your area. Please call the weather service office having short-fused warning responsibility for your area. If in doubt, call the nearest weather service office.

On behalf of the Weather Service employees in Montana, I would like to thank the Montana DES people for the hospitality shown to us during the Governor's Conference this past February. We appreciate the privilege of being a part of the conference.

Thank You

Lynn Valtinson
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Weather Service Office Great Falls

TIDBITS FROM DISTRICT III:

Bob Fry

I want to let everyone know I have moved my office up to the Livingston Armory. My address and phone number have changed. It is now 24 Fleshman Creek Road, Suite 1, Livingston, MT 59047 and my phone # is 222-4430. And yes, I do have a window. We have a couple of new additions to the district over the past few months. Jack Widdecombe is the coordinator in Broadwater county. Jack has been working on his EOC to get it into working condition and recently attended the Intro course. Jack has an extensive background in safety

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and law enforcement. Floyd Fisher has recently been appointed the temporary Golden Valley coordinator. Floyd was also appointed Sheriff of Golden Valley coming from Musselshell county where he was deputy. As usual any advice or help for other coordinators around the state will be greatly appreciated. I was fortunate to be the controller for the Park-Meagher joint county exercise and happy to say the exercise went well. Both the Coordinators, George Bryce and Rick Siedlitz and the deputy coordinator, Mary Jo Svalina and Maebeth Siedlitz, were very involved and did an excellent job of putting it together. You might ask them about it.

The Incident Command Working (ICS) Team had its third meeting in Helena during the Governor's conferences. All objectives were discussed and it was decided by the working team due to the fact there were no specific procedure or training manuals for type III teams anywhere in the country except by functional discipline, that we should develop all risk task books off of existing task books based on scenario based training. We are basing the development on a three day incident involving 150 people in a community of 1500 with a combined government. There will be 100 people moved and the

town location will be one hour from a major trade center. A working meeting has been scheduled for May 31, 1995 at 0900 in the Billings EOC at 2300 9th Avenue North. This will be an all day meeting to try and address various risks. Task books have been ordered for the working team to work off of. It should be an interesting day. Anyone interested in more information or minutes on the meetings can call me at 222-4430 and I will send the minutes and any other pertinent info. If you have any helpful ideas or opinions please pass those along also.

LEGISLATION

Dan Lieberg

As the 54th Legislature comes to a close, two bills DES has been following have been signed by the Governor.

The first bill is House Bill 142, which amends Title 10, MCA to define "incident", and allows the Governor to pre-authorize MT DES to expend up to \$10,000 per incident without a declaration of emergency or disaster. The authority would be used for the State's response to a local government request for assistance in emergency response or assessment. This is for the State's costs and not to reimburse local government for their costs or normal mutual aid. The State's response

might include State, National Guard, Federal, private or other local government (non-mutual aid) resources.

The second bill is House Bill 461, which is called the "Montana Response to Hazardous Material Incidents Act". This bill amends Title 75, MCA to:

- *authorize the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to develop a hazardous materials response plan, in cooperation with local responders, local government, state government, and private industry;

- *provide that adequate hazmat response capability exists in the state, and duplication of resources and efforts are diminished;

- *support local responders when hazmat incidents exceed local capabilities;

- *support local responders by coordination and providing training for all interested parties;

- *form a state hazmat response team.

HB 461 has an immediate effective date, and HB 142 has an effective date of July 1, 1995.

The Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Disaster and Emergency Services Division. It is funded, in part, by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Contributions of articles and ideas are welcome. Deadlines for submission are January 8 for the February issue; April 8 for the May issue; July 8 for the August issue; and October 8 for the November issue. Please send articles to the Editor, Fred Naeher, at the address below.

The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. The articles in this newsletter do not constitute official policy. Questions regarding articles may be addressed to the DES Newsletter Editor.

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